

St. Catherine Creek
National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 117
Sibley, Mississippi 39165
601/442 6696
<http://saintcatherinecreek.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

May 2005



To:

St. Catherine Creek

National Wildlife Refuge Regulations 2005-2006



The Refuge

St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in January 1990 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl. The refuge is located in southwest Mississippi. The habitat consists of bottomland and upland hardwoods, cleared land, cypress swamps, accreted land, and fallow fields. Due to the refuge’s diversity of lands, it has long been noted for large populations of wildlife, including small game and deer. Public hunting and fishing is permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

General Regulations

A \$12.50 Annual Public Use Permit is required for all hunters and fishermen. Permits, required State licenses (including primitive weapons license when deer hunting), and a picture ID must be possessed at all times while on refuge property. Permits are available at refuge headquarters Monday-Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm or by mail, payable with cash or money order only.

All persons must obtain and complete a Daily Visitor Use Reporting card upon entering the refuge and display it on the dash so that name and address are visible from the outside. Before leaving the refuge, users must complete the reverse side of the card and deposit it in a drop box at one of the visitor stations. All game (including hogs) and fish taken must be reported on the Daily Visitor Use Card.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by refuge officers.

Prohibited Activities



- Possession of firearms, except when participating in scheduled hunts
- Littering
- Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Entering refuge from private property
- Hunters entering from public waterways
- Camping or overnight parking
- Unconfined pets
- Open fires
- Unauthorized taking of wildlife or plants
- Target practice
- Baiting or hunting over bait
- Man drives
- Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road or ATV trail
- Marking trails with tape, paper, paint, etc.
- Field dressing game or hogs within 50 yards of any road, ATV trail, or parking lot
- Trapping
- Riding horses or mules
- Crawfishing or frogging
- Spotlighting
- Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any active oil well site, production facility or equipment or tampering with any petroleum facility or equipment
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity, including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts
- Possession of slugs, buckshot, or rifle ammunition larger than .22 rimfire
- Possession of handguns
- Use or possession of any drug, or device for employing such drug for hunting

	Possession of commercial fishing or trot line equipment, including limb lines and yo-yos				
	Jug fishing				
	Geocaching				
<i>Vehicles</i>	All motor vehicles are restricted to roads designated on the map. Refuge roads and trails may be closed at times due to flooding or adverse weather conditions. All travel on refuge roads is at your own risk. Parking is restricted to parking areas and immediately adjacent to roadways designated on the map. Do not block any roads, gates or road entrances. No parking is allowed in the refuge headquarters parking lot, shop area parking lot, or between No Parking signs adjacent to refuge houses while hunting.	<i>Blinds / Stands</i>	<p>Hogs may only be taken with bow & arrow and muzzleloaders during designated primitive weapon deer seasons and the youth gun hunt. There is no bag limit on hogs.</p> <p>Inserting metal objects into trees or hunting from trees into which metal objects have been inserted is prohibited. Climbing spurs are prohibited. Only portable stands or blinds may be used. Blinds and tripods must be dismantled and stands must be removed from the tree after each day’s hunt. All stands must be removed from the refuge prior to any flood event or by February 5, 2006. NO EXCEPTIONS.</p> <p>During primitive weapon season, the State Youth Gun Hunt and while hunting small game in open fields or reforestation areas, all persons must wear Hunter Orange HAT and UPPER GARMENT in plain view at all times. EXCEPTION: Waterfowl hunters are <u>not</u> required to wear hunter orange.</p> <p>Ground blinds must display a minimum of 500 square inches of hunter orange visible from all sides.</p>	<i>Youth Hunters</i>	Youth hunters (ages 10-15) must have passed a State-approved hunter education course and possess proof of such while hunting. Youth hunters must be directly supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older. For big game hunts, each adult may only supervise one youth. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.
		<i>Hunter Orange</i>		<i>Firearms</i>	Firearms, including muzzle loaders, transported on roads, ATV trails, or waterways within the refuge boundary must be unloaded and cased.
					Primitive weapons are those defined by state law.
<i>Boats</i>	Hunters may not enter the refuge from public waterways. Deer and Small Game hunters may not use motorized boats after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 30 feet or greater. US Coast Guard approved PFD’s must be worn by all persons in all boats while underway.				Only non-toxic shotshells may be possessed during waterfowl hunts. Only shotguns using non-toxic shotshells, .22 rimfire rifles (no .22 magnums), and muzzleloading rifles 38 caliber and under shooting patched round balls only, may be possessed during small game hunts.
	Boats must be hand launched except at designated boat ramps.				Fishing Regulations The refuge is open for daylight use only. Refuge Annual Public Use Permits are required. Fishermen may not enter before daylight and must be off refuge property before dark.
<i>Hunter Access</i>	Hunting Regulations Hunters may enter the refuge 2 hours before sunrise and must exit the refuge no later than 2 hours after sunset.	<i>Bag Limits</i>	State season bag limits apply unless otherwise stated. Only one deer per day may be harvested.		State fishing laws apply. State bag limits apply.
	Users may not enter the refuge from private property.	<i>Game Check In</i>	All deer must be immediately field dressed prior to being transported and then checked at the nearest refuge deer check station (see map). NO EXCEPTIONS. Check stations are self-clearing.		Sport fishing only.
<i>ATV’s</i>	ATV’s (maximum tire pressure: 5 PSI) are restricted to designated ATV trails as shown on map. ATV trails are only open during scheduled hunts and scouting periods. Hunters must be 16 years of age or older to operate an ATV on the refuge.				ATV’s are not allowed.
	ATV’s are not permitted off designated trails for game retrieval.	<i>Waterfowl</i>	Waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake, Salt Lake and Gilliard Lake only. In the Butler Lake Unit, waterfowl hunting will be closed after the Natchez River Gauge reaches 30 feet or greater. Waterfowl hunting in Gilliard Lake will be closed when the Natchez River Gauge reaches 34 feet or greater. Access to Butler Lake waterfowl hunting is restricted to Butler Lake Road only.		All prohibited activities apply.
<i>Incidental Species</i>	Beaver, nutria, raccoons, bobcats and coyote may be taken during any scheduled refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.			<i>Youth Fishermen</i>	On the Sibley Unit, boats are only allowed in Gilliard Lake, south of the Ring Levee (see map) and in Swamp Lake. Boats may only be hand launched in Swamp Lake.
					NOTE: The Blue Hole (on the Cloverdale Unit) is closed to ALL PUBLIC ENTRY.
					There is a youth fishing area located on the Sibley Unit. This area is identified on the map and by signs. Youth ages 15 and under only may fish and must be supervised by an adult 21 years or older. The adult may not fish.
					<i>Bow Fishing</i>
					Bow fishing is allowed. Daylight use only. Bow fishermen must abide by Mississippi State law. Night time bow fishing on the refuge will be allowed only through a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge Manager.
					NOTE: There is an active Bald Eagle nest in the Gilliard Lake area. All precautions must be taken NOT to disturb the Eagle nest.
					The Refuge Manager reserves the right to close seasons and/or portions of the refuge due to inclement weather, road conditions and/or river levels or any other appropriate reason. The Refuge Manager may revoke any Annual Public Use Permit for refuge violations.
					For more information, write or call: St. Catherine Creek NWR P O Box 117, Sibley MS 39165 (601)442 6696.
					Signs Protect Visitors and Resources. This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.
					This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing, or sight-seeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public. (See map.)
					This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited. (See map.)
					Road only for use by refuge employees.